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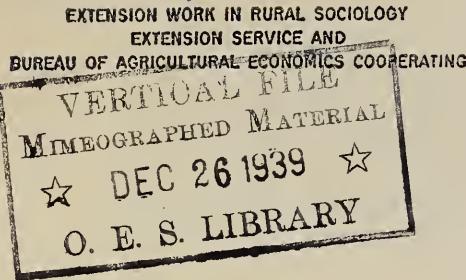
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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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RECREATION NEWSLETTER



October 1939.

Dear Fellow Workers:

Fall is almost here, and conferences and other meetings fill the next two months to overflowing for most of us, I know.

If any particularly good achievement or rally-day programs come your way, will you share them with me, please? I have many requests for suggestions and few opportunities for refreshing my supply.

My summer was a crowded one. Perhaps some of the things I saw and heard will interest you.

Games for 4,000

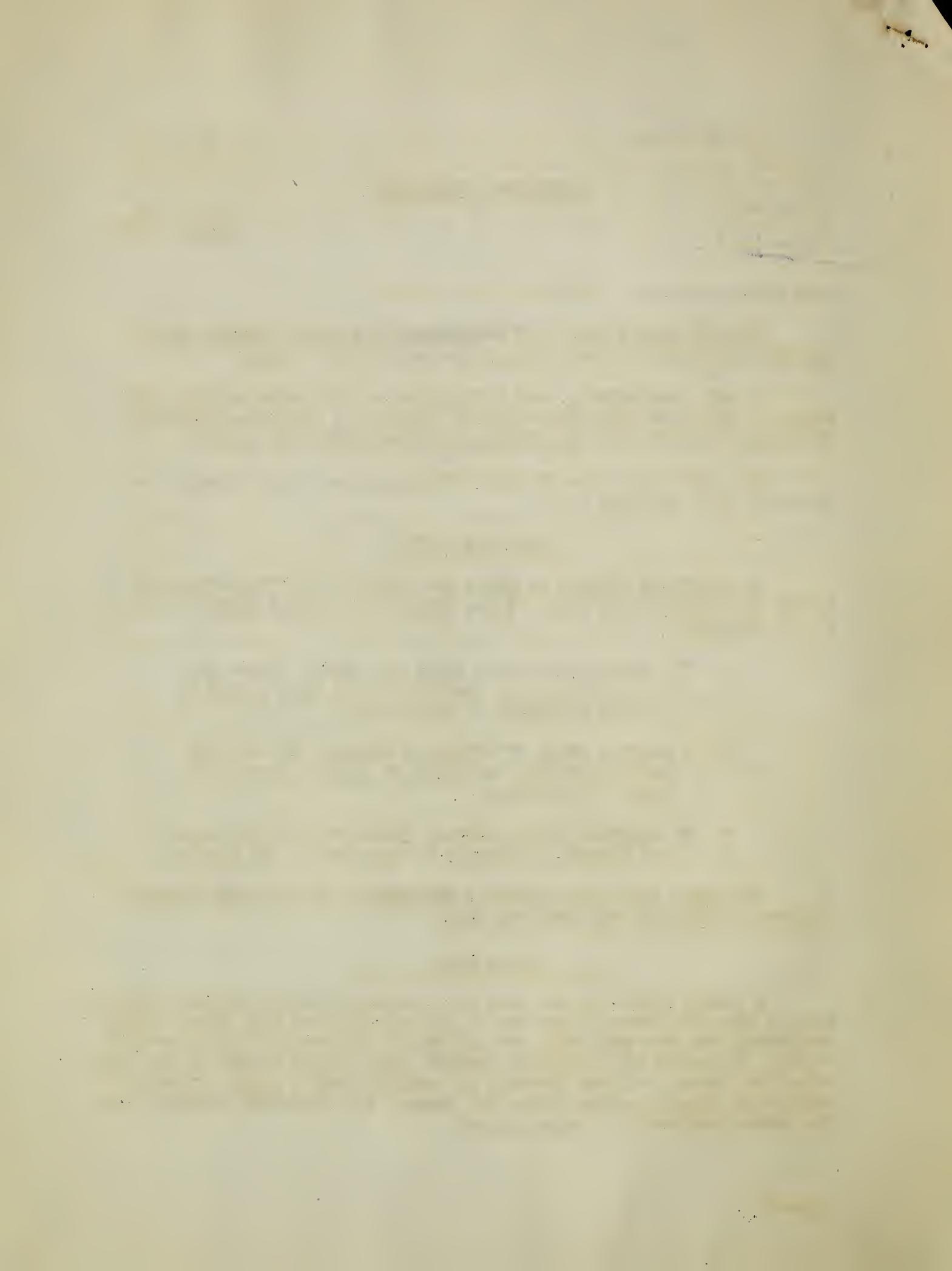
An excellent evening of games was conducted by "Duke" Regnier during the Illinois 4-H Tour. Three things contributed particularly to his success:

1. The explanations were brief and clear. There was very evidently no question in the Duke's mind as to what he wanted to accomplish.
2. A capable group of volunteer leaders, two of whom served each unit of about 32 couples, were well trained in advance.
3. An adequate public-address system brought the music and directions clearly to everyone of the players.

The games that were used were Shoemakers' Dance, Green Sleeves, Pop Goes the Weasel, and Virginia Reel.

Magic Fire

A clever magic act was used at a campfire program in West Virginia. Part of its effectiveness was due to the colored fire that made a weird background for four magicians who did brief, burlesqued sleight-of-hand tricks. A handful of lycopodium (ground pine) powder thrown at the fire, burned in the air, giving emphasis at certain points; copper chloride made green flames; calcium chloride, orange; and strontium nitrate, red. The number was novel and much enjoyed.



One who enjoys fires by sight, sound, and smell said that the hardwoods make the rosiest embers; that old apple wood not only burns with ever-changing colors but smells especially good; that resinous pine, juniper, and red cedar are the best for spicy scents when they are burning, and that driftwood that has been to sea has all the blues of the waters in it.

#### International Influence

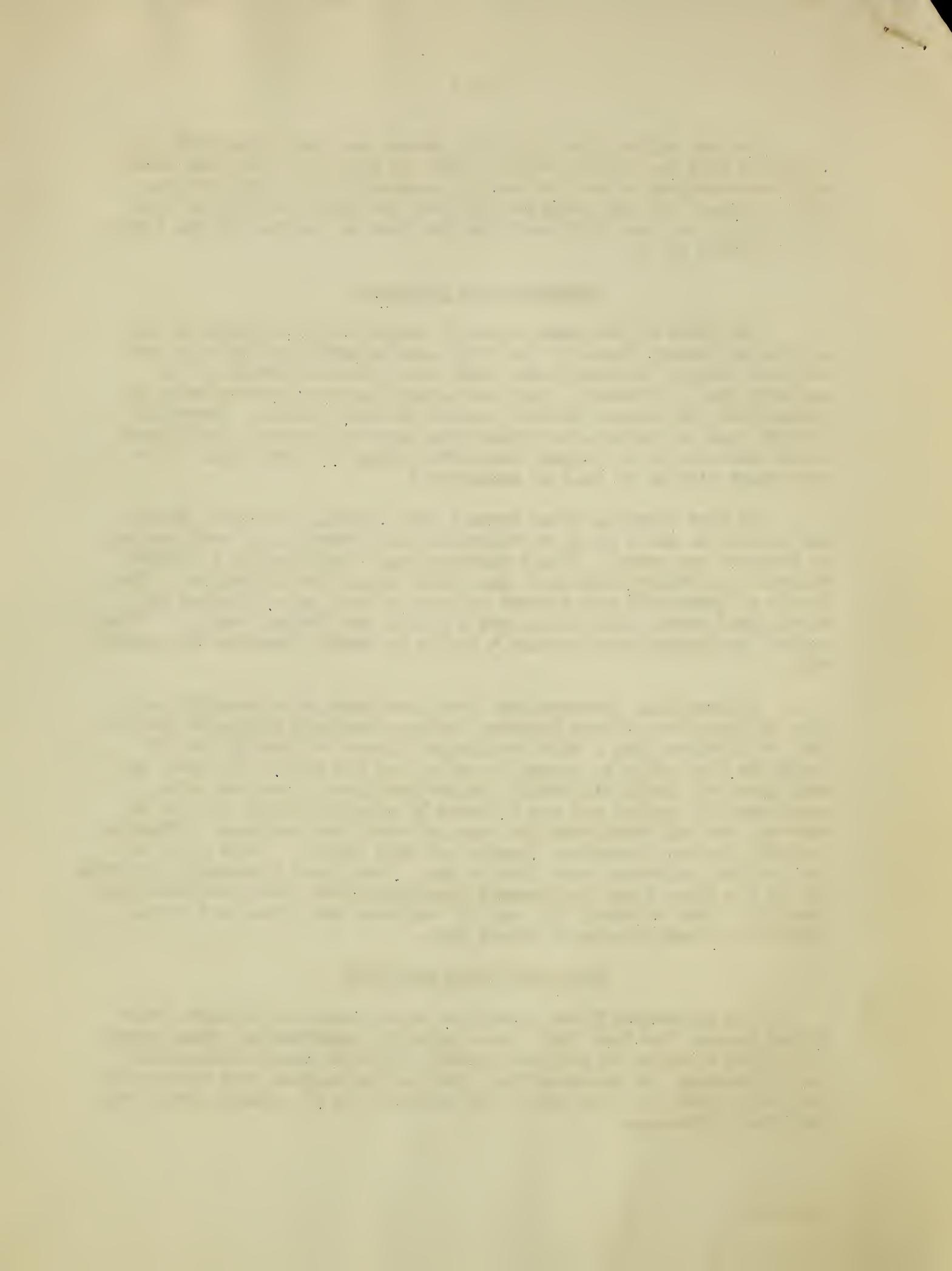
The visit of the rural women to London for the meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World made international affairs popular this summer. International balls were given in several of the meetings that I attended. They were always costumed affairs with the groups from the various nations presenting songs, dances, dramatized stories, and characteristic scenes from their homelands. (Folk Tales of the Nations, by F. H. Lee, Tudor Publishing Co., New York, offers many short stories to tell or dramatize.)

In West Virginia after several such scenes, the Little Entente was announced, and a group of well-dramatized charades of words ending in "nation" was given. "Rural illumination," "pollination," "rejuvenation," and others were used, the climax being "Carrie Nation." The finale of their ball was a great melting pot into which, during the final grand march, each nation put a gift to the United States -- "fine music," "scientific discoveries," "pride in work," "laughter and song," etc.

A surprising international touch was given to a beautiful campfire on the shore of Lake Superior during a Northern Peninsula Leaders' Camp in Michigan when a chief challenged anyone to identify the 14 languages that could be spoken by members of his tribe, the last, and only joke one, being Pig Latin! At another fire in the same spot, a woman sang in Swedish and was followed by several others. Not to be outdone, men and women sang the songs of their old homelands - Italian, Finnish, German, Norwegian, French, and many others. Their pride and very evident enjoyment were fine to see. Going home afterwards in almost all of the cars, songs the campers remembered from their childhood were recalled. The following day many of them were sung again and again, especially those from early school days.

#### Historical-Films Institute

The Historical Films Institute, with offices at 55 West Forty-Second Street, New York City, is a nonprofit organization, which plans to produce a series of pictures showing different racial backgrounds and emphasizing the contributions that various peoples have made to the culture of America. The aim of the Institute is to advance racial and religious tolerance.



Hendrik Willem van Loon has placed at its disposal the exclusive motion-picture right to two of his best-known books "The Story of Mankind" and "Tolerance." He has also agreed to collaborate with the Institute in the preparation of all its scenarios.

#### Choric Reading

The enthusiasm with which groups enjoy participating in verse-speaking choirs was evident in the boys and girls from the Southern States who gave a group of readings at National Camp, and in the women attending the young mothers' camp at Jackson's Mill, W. Va. Reading for fun, for the experience of sharing ideas with each other and the writers, for the feeling of unity and satisfaction that rhythm gives, all seem to enter into the activity. Because this is so, it seems important to read together a great deal and to prepare numbers for presentation very occasionally. Interest in voice qualities, diction, and emphasis is a valuable byproduct, but enjoyment of the poetry rather than self-improvement seems to be of primary importance in the groups that I have met.

Choric Reading, by Zaneta Eager, Extension Circular No. 260, May 1939, Ames, Iowa, single copies of which may be obtained free of charge from Ames is a practical little booklet.

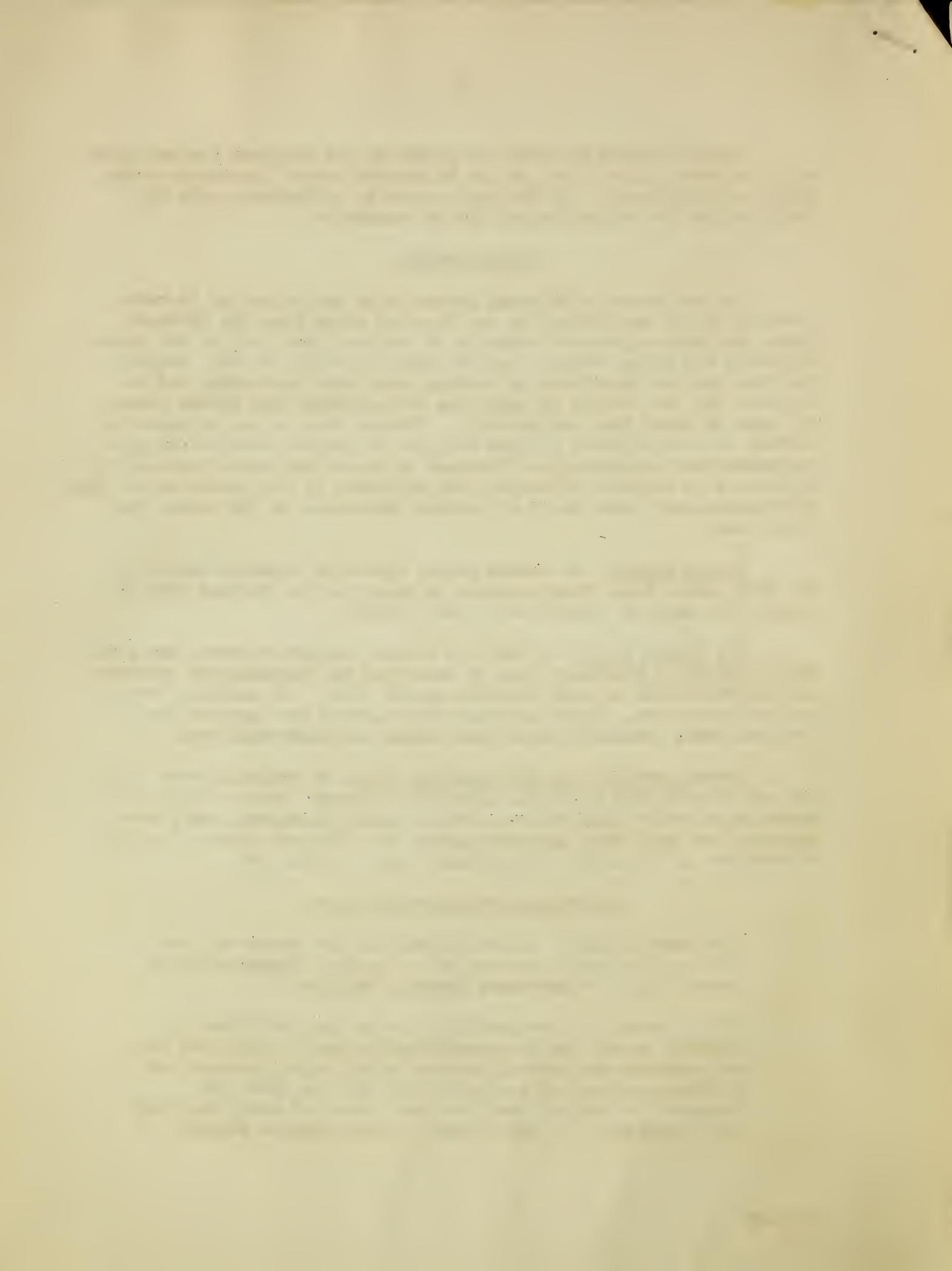
The Speech Choir, by Marjorie Gullan, Harper Brothers, New York, 1939, includes a graduated plan of work from the beginning of practice to difficult forms of work with the speech choir. It contains over a hundred selections, including poems with refrain for two-part work, sequence work, cumulative work, and unison and individual work.

Poetry Arranged for the Speaking Choir, by Marion Parsons Robinson and Rosetta Lura Thurston, Expression Company, Boston, 1936, contains introductory chapters on choral speaking technique, and poems arranged for choir with passages marked for different types of voices or sections of the choir: Men, women, high, middle, low.

#### Quotations From Here and There

"The best teachers, in my observation, are those who contribute by a subtle process of contagion a joyous attitude toward life." -- Secretary Henry A. Wallace.

"It is education's responsibilities to let youth know by practice as well as by precept that no man is born free but must achieve whatever of freedom he may enjoy; that no one is free who does not recognize what Dr. Coe calls the 'cannotts' of natural law, the 'must nots' of civil law, and the 'ought nots' of moral law." -- Grace Loucks Elliott.



"Versatility and understanding are needed in working with youth. The requirements are similar to those of a musician--technical skill, intellectual understanding, and emotional coloring." -- Dr. Gilbert Wrenn, University of Minnesota.

Nathaniel Cantor (sociologist of the University of Buffalo) addressing the group workers in Buffalo at the National Conference of Social Work said, "Your job is not just to adjust people to problems, but to help them bring about an adjustment of problems."

"The most important step in preserving the democratic system is to keep that 'moral vitamin' called social responsibility." -- Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

"Buoyant health depends upon the will-to-live. As long as the individual can look forward to tomorrow with anticipation, as long as he can have scintillating, challenging activities, literally we may say 'Power is added unto him.' Given this will-to-live you can add years to life but what is infinitely more important, we can add life to the years." --Jay B. Nash, New York University.

#### Recent Books

Children's Play, Indoor and Out, by Elizabeth F. Boettiger; E. P. Dutton and Co., New York City, 1938, 189 pp.

A useful book on home-made equipment, music, storytelling, outdoor play, and the qualities to be developed through play, addressed to those who deal with preschool and kindergarten children.

Your Health Dramatized, by W. W. Bauer and Leslie Edgley; E. P. Dutton and Co., New York City, 1939, 528 pp.

An unusual collection of radio scripts dramatizing health situations. They have been adapted somewhat and suggestions are given for using many of them as short skits. There is an abundance of good ideas here for many uses.

Myself, a guidebook for personality study, by M'Ledge Moffett; Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York City, 1939.

A clear, direct discussion of personal growth amplified through questions, inventories, and suggested activities. Addressed to high-school and college-age girls.

When We Meet Socially, a guide to good form in social behavior, by M'Ledge Moffett; Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York City, 1939.



An informal, direct, common-sense presentation of social customs. Dean Moffett has known the 4-H Club boys and girls of Virginia for many years. Their use of this material was evidently in her mind when it was prepared.

Treasure Bag of Game Songs, by Dorothy Gordon; E. P. Dutton and Co., New York City, 1939.

A nicely illustrated and well written collection of singing games primarily of interest to children under 10, although some of them will amuse people of all ages.

Rediscovering the Adolescent, by Hedley S. Dimock; Association Press, New York, 287 pp., 1939.

"We have observed nothing on the adolescent level that could be called unique." The author finds growth very gradual and abrupt changes not the commonplace in adolescence. Emphasis is placed on social rather than hereditary factors.

#### Books That Cost Less Than \$1

Yours for a Song, compiled by Janet E. Tobitt; 430 West 119th Street, New York City, 44 pp., 1939.

Folk songs, hymns, carols, art songs, rounds and canons drawn from many nations and many centuries. Most of them are easy enough to teach unaccompanied. Many have never been published here before.

Your Community, Its Provision for Health, Education, Safety and Welfare, by Joanna C. Colcord; Russell Sage Foundation, New York City, 249 pp., 1939.

This manual, written for use by volunteers, consists almost entirely of series of questions that tell the investigator what to look for in an objective study of his community. They relate to: (1) The community setting, that is, the population, industries, and history of the community, and its relation to the surrounding region; (2) its government; (3) its ways of dealing with crime and of caring for the underprivileged; (4) its provisions for public safety, education, housing, health, and child care; and (5) the agencies, public and private, that operate within its limits.

Chapter 12 deals with public and private recreation and the planning of a community program, and Chapter 18 with agencies for community planning and coordination.

Promenade, by Lloyd Shaw, Superintendent of Cheyenne Mountain Schools; Entertainment Department, Women's Home Companion, New York.



Seven western cowboy square dances and variations with complete calls and full dance directions. "Form a Star," "Ladies to the center," "Lady round the lady," "Two gents swing with the elbow swing," "I'll swing your girl, you swing mine," "Forward six and fall back six," and "Forward six and fall back eight" are given. Success in doing them, Mr. Shaw says, depends largely upon the caller, who must memorize the calls and time them to the steps. Music is not given but, Turkey in the Straw will do for all of them.

Guide to the Literature of Rural Life, by Benson Y. Landis; American Country Life Association, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Five hundred titles of books and pamphlets. Many recent ones are included and inexpensive and nontechnical ones emphasized.

#### Free Publications

Christmas Carols. An attractive little 16-page collection of carols is available free of charge from the John Hancock Life Insurance Co., Boston, Mass.

Plan Book for the Boy Builder,  
Wood Turning in the Home Workshop,  
Wood Carving for Pleasure.

Western Pine Association, Portland, Oreg. Clearly written booklets that would set anyone to working with wood.

Tools for Good Times is the name of the new catalog that Lynn Rohrbaugh, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio, has prepared listing his very useful wares.

Art in the Daily Life of the Child, by Grant Wood; Child Welfare Pamphlet No. 73, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. May 10, 1929.

#### From the Magazines

Co-recreation is the theme of the September 1939 number of Recreation (vol. XXXIII, No. 6). It is an unusually good number full of practical ideas for use with mixed groups.

The Child Reveals Himself Through Play, by Jacob H. Conn, M.D.; Mental Hygiene, vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 49-69.

Dr. Conn discusses ways in which children have been led through play to express their dissatisfactions, their hopes and fears. Quotations from interviews are given to show what was learned and how it was used.

Culture in Agriculture, by Willem van de Wall; Rural America, vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 3-6. February 1939.



Dr. van de Wall, who is engaged in a three-year study of music in Kentucky, says, "To the disadvantaged of the rural communities belong a great number of people who are utterly maladjusted because they have powers within them that they don't understand and don't know how to use." He presents a thought-provoking approach to many phases of rural living, placing their responsibilities and opportunities before such rural institutions as the church, the school, the community, and the home.

Your Voice, by Chevalier Jackson and C. L. Jackson; Hygeia, vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 110-112, February 1939.

A persuasive discussion of the importance of protecting the larynx against strain and overuse, of training children to use their voices well, and of the great value of silence and rest.

Brief directions for making papier-mache' fist puppets are enclosed. They were inspired by Hans Schmidt of Madison, Wis., whose excellent, practical method is described.

I hope I shall see many of you at the Recreation Congress in Boston on October 9. It promises to be a very worth-while conference.

Cordially yours,

Ella Gardner,  
Recreation Specialist.

Enclosure.



## AN ASSORTMENT OF GAMES

### Tillie Williams

"Do you know Tillie Williams? She is odd and queer, but not peculiar. She likes boots but not shoes,  
the moon but not the sun,  
green but not blue,  
carrots but not peas."

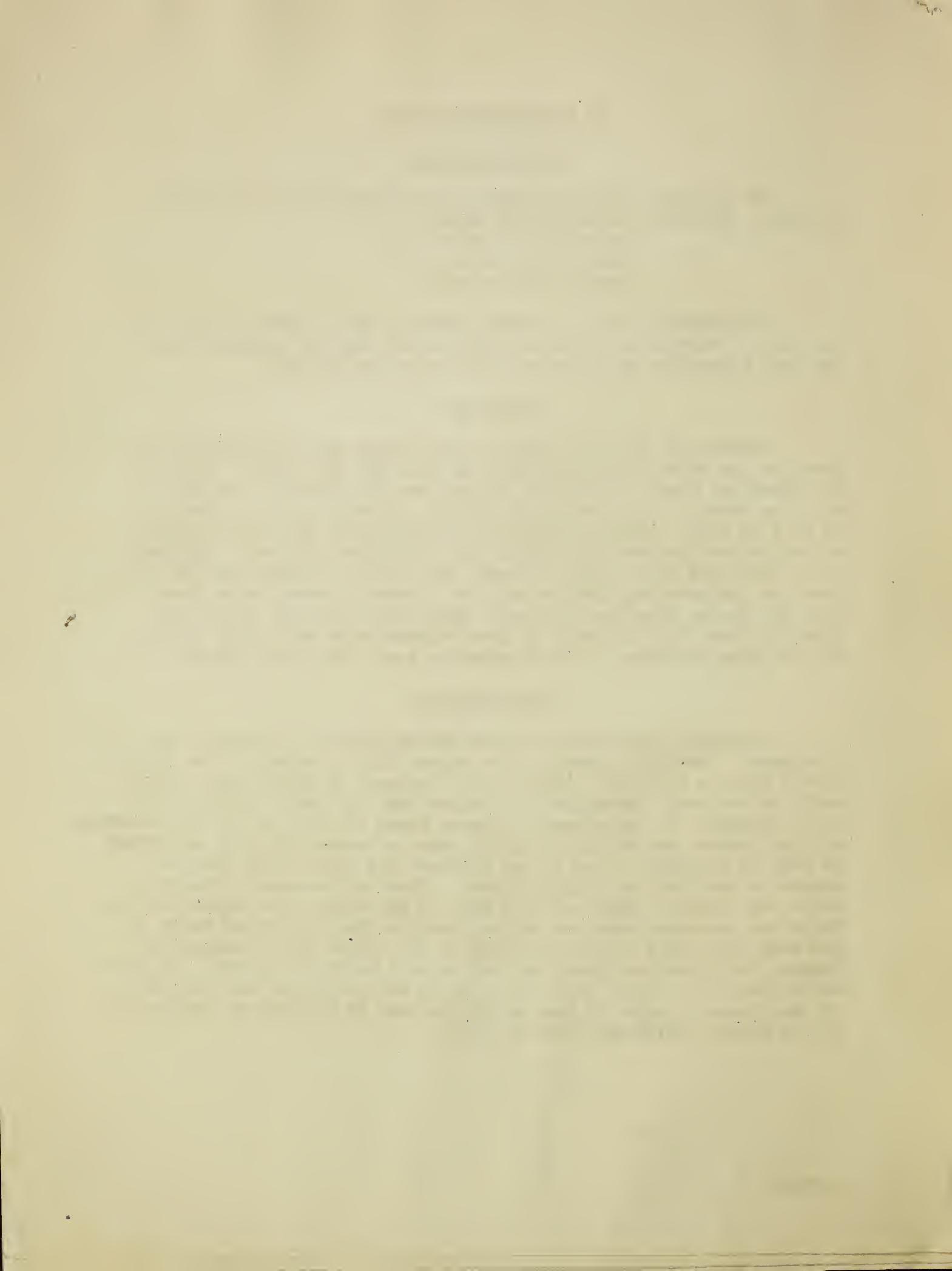
The answer is that she likes anything with a double letter in it, but, of course, it is never given in this way but instead by asking such a question as "Does she like grass but not hay?"

### Round-up

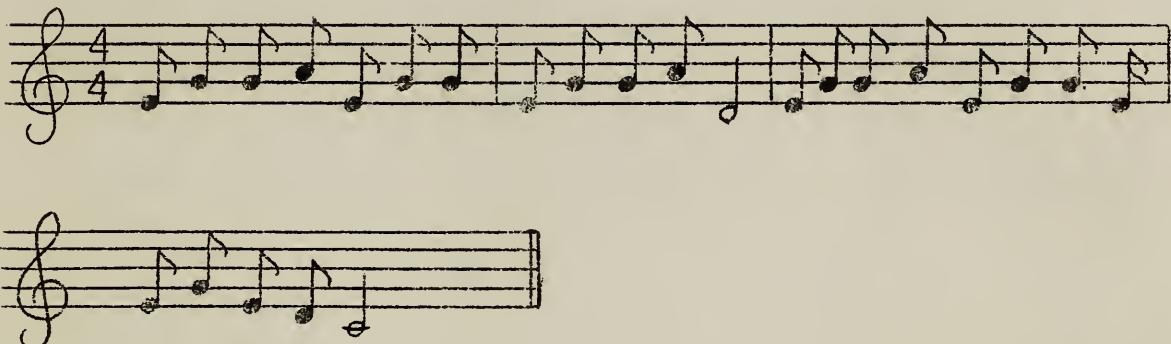
Scatter all but six players of the group over the playing area. Have the six selected players stand in line and join hands - this is the "Round-up Crew." The other players are the "Steers." At the signal, the Round-up Crew chases the Steers, attempting to surround one or more of them. Players rounded up (encircled by the Round-up Crew so the two end players join hands) are considered captured. Captured steers withdraw to one side. Steers may attempt to break through the hands of the Round-up Crew but are not allowed to crawl under them. When six steers have been captured, they join hands and become the Round-up Crew; the old Round-up Crew release hands and become Steers, and the game continues. This requires a large, open play space.

### Kick and Hide

A playing field that provides hiding places is necessary for this game. Establish a spot a foot square in the center of the playing area - this is the goal. Place a ball (soccer, or other heavy rubber ball) on the goal. Assemble the players near the goal. Appoint one of the players It. At signal, a player kicks the ball as far as possible; all the players run and hide, and It runs to recover the ball and bring it back to the goal. When It has returned the ball to the goal he starts to hunt for the hidden players. When he discovers a player he calls that player's name and both run for the ball. The player, either It or the one whose name was called, reaching the ball first kicks it and runs and hides; the other player is It. While It is seeking the hiders, the hiders may steal out and attempt to kick the ball. As soon as It observes a player doing this, he is at liberty to call the name of that player. After It has called the name of a player no one but It or the player called may kick the ball.



Great Big House in New Orleans



1. Great big house in New Orleans  
Forty stories high,  
Every room that I was in  
Was lined with pumpkin pie.
2. Went down to the old mill stream  
To get a pail of water,
3. Put one arm around my wife  
The other 'round my daughter.
4. Fare thee well, my darling girl  
Fare thee well, my daughter
5. Fare thee well, my darling girl  
With the golden slippers on her.

Starting position - Couples in circle facing to the inside, ladies on right. (1) On first verse, circle right. (2) On first two lines of second verse all step forward four steps, ladies join hands in circle and stoop toward floor (as if to dip water). (3) Men join hands in circle over the joined hands of the ladies. On the last two lines of second verse men swing joined hands back over the heads of the ladies and around their necks. Ladies swing joined hands back over and around the neck of the men. (4) On first two lines of the last verse; turn partner (lady on right) two complete turns (walking steps). (5) On last two lines of the last verse, each man turns corner (lady on left) two complete turns to left and leaves her on his right thereby getting her as his new partner.

--Taught by Mr. Jerome E. Vogt at the  
Illinois Leisurecraft and Counseling  
Camp.

